

Message Text

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SUBJ: U.S.-TUNISIA JOINT COMMISSION--BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REF : STATE 235217

FOLLOWING IS AVAILABLE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS
REQUESTED REFTEL:

1. ALI AZZOUZ IS CHIEF OF THE DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE OF THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY. HE WAS BORN IN GAFSA ON FEBRUARY 12, 1930, AND COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY STUDIES AT THE PRESTIGIOUS COLLEGE SADIKI IN TUNIS, AFTER WHICH HE WENT TO FRANCE IN 1952 TO STUDY AT THE FACULTY OF LAW AT MONTPELLIER. HE BEGAN WORK IN THE TUNISIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE IN 1957 AS AN INSPECTOR AND IN 1958 OBTAINED A DIPLOMA AT THE NATIONAL CUSTOMS SCHOOL OF PARIS. HE JOINED THE DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE IN 1963 WHERE HE BECAME A "CHEF DE SERVICE" IN 1967 AND A DEPUTY DIRECTOR IN 1970. HE IS AN OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC, IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO DAUGHTERS.

2. SLAHEDDINE DHRIF IS CHIEF OF THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WAS A COMMERCIAL ATTACHE IN THE TUNISIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS IN 1968 BUT IS OTHERWISE UNKNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY.

3. HABIB BEN YAHIA IS CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTER-
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NATIONAL COOPERATION AT THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN

AFFAIRS. HE WAS BORN IN HAMMAM-LIF AND IS IN HIS MID-THIRTIES. HE STUDIED ENGLISH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TUNIS AND SPENT ONE SUMMER EACH IN THE UK AND US TO IMPROVE HIS LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES. HE THEN TAUGHT ENGLISH AT A LYCEE IN SFAX AND WAS A PART-TIME ANNOUNCER FOR A RADIO TUNIS ENGLISH PROGRAM UNTIL 1964. IN THE TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HE WORKED ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO THE 1964 EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF O.A.U. FOREIGN MINISTERS IN DAR ES SALAAM. HE WORKED ON THE AMERICAN DESK IN 1967 AND WAS NAMED A SECOND SECRETARY AT THE TUNISIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN THE LATTER PART OF THAT YEAR. AFTER ABOUT THREE YEARS IN THE U.S., HE SERVED A TOUR IN PARIS BEFORE RETURNING TO TUNIS TO THE DIRECTORATE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY HE HAS BEEN COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL. HE IS PERSONALLY RATHER QUIET BUT WILLING TO BE OPEN AND FRANK IN HIS PROFESSIONAL DISCUSSIONS. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND IS MARRIED.

4. RIDHA ZRIBI HAS BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMY SINCE FEBRUARY OF 1975. HE WAS BORN IN TUNIS ON APRIL 14, 1936, AND COMPLETED HIS SECONDARY STUDIES AT THE COLLEGE SADIKI IN TUNIS, A COMMON TRAINING GROUND FOR TUNISIA'S ELITE. HE THEN OBTAINED A DIPLOMA FROM THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION AND JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE IN 1959. HE BECAME A DIRECTOR OF BUDGETARY MATTERS IN 1970 AND THEN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BUDGET IN 1974. HE HAS ALSO WORKED ON FINANCIAL MATTERS OF THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WHICH TUNISIA IS A MEMBER. HE JOINED THE DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY IN HIS COLLEGE SADIKI DAYS AND WAS A STUDENT PARTY OFFICIAL IN 1958-59. HE IS A COMMANDER OF THE ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC, IS MARRIED AND HAS TWO CHILDREN. SEELYE

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